

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 CEA-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DOTE-00 FMC-02

SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 /110 W

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R 260708Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9709

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 17126

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, UNCTAD, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD UNCTAD LINER CODE

REF: (A) STATE 278045, (B) NEW DELHI 16422

1. PRESTIGIOUS ECONOMIC TIMES NOVEMBER 20 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE STORY ON GOI POSITION ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES ARTICLE DATED NEW DELHI AND ATTRIBUTED TO OFFICIAL SOURCES.

2. ARTICLE LEADS OFF WITH ASSERTION THAT "INDIA HAS REPUDIATED THE SUGGESTION MADE BY UK AND SOME OTHER DEVELOPED MARITIME COUNTRIES THAT THE CODE...BE AMENDED," SUCH A PROPOSAL IS CONSIDERED "A MOVE TO SCUTTLE THE CODE WHICH BY ITSELF REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE OF..

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CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND VARYING VIEWPOINTS."

3. REMAINDER OF ARTICLE, HOWEVER, ASSERTS THAT, APART FROM "SACROSANCT" AREAS, "ANY PROBLEMS THAT THE BIG MARITIME UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES OF THE WEST ARE FACING AMONG THEMSELVES...COULD BE

SOLVED IF STATED CLEARLY." SACROSANCT AREAS ARE (1) 40:20
CARGO SHARING PROVISION, INCLUDING RIGHT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TO COMPETE FOR 20 PERCENT SHARE OF THIRD COUNTRY TRADE, AND (2)

"THE CONTROL LEVERS REGARDING REGULATION OF CONFERENCES AND FIXATION
OF FREIGHTS (I.E. RATES)".

4. OFFICIAL CIRCLES ARE REPORTED TO BE INTRIGUED BY "THE SILENCE
OF...MARITIME COUNTRIES AS TO THE NATURE OF THE AMENDMENTS THEY
SEEK OR THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THEY ARE EXPERIENCING IN RATIFYING
OR ENFORCING THE CODE." OUTSIDE THE TWO SPECIFIED AREAS, "ANY
AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD HELP SOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THE DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES ARE FACING AMONG THEMSELVES COULD BE SORTED OUT, BUT
THESE DIFFICULTIES HAVE TO BE SPELT OUT FIRST."

5. ARTICLE THEN REITERATES POINT (REFTEL B) THAT "IF AN
INTERNATIONAL CODE IS NOT COMING, NATIONAL LEGISLATION WOULD
HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF INDIAN SHIPPING
IN A WORLD OF INCREASING LINER COMPETITION." ARTICLE CONCLUDES
WITH LENGTHY QUOTE FROM MIN-SHIPPING TRIVEDI: "THERE ARE IN-
AUDIBLE WHISPERS ABOUT INDIA'S ATTITUDE TO THE CODE. LET ME
STATE AT ONCE THAT INDIA HAS SIGNED THE CODE AND STANDS BY THE
PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE CODE UNEQUIVOCALLY...AT THE SAME TIME
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE THE CODE BE AS WORLDWIDE AND UNIVERSAL
AS POSSIBLE..."SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, POLICIES, STANDARDS, MARINE TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE17126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760439-0828
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761112/aaaaajyj.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 278045, 76 NEW DELHI 16422
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD UNCTAD LINER CODE
TAGS: EWWT, IN, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006